



H.R. 407 - Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 407 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) on January 11, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, but was not considered.

H.R. 407 is expected to be considered on the floor on May 7, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 407 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the coastal areas of Clatsop County, Oregon, and Pacific County, Washington to determine the feasibility of designating the area as a National Heritage Area known as the "Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area."

Background

This coastal area along the Pacific Northeast once and still does play a role in America's shipping industries. Sir Francis Bacon, Captain Cook and other early European explorers used the area to try and find a river running West to increase trade routes. Lewis and Clark also later explored the area. It later became known as the 'Golden Round', which stimulated the economy of the newly freed colonies and accelerated the development of the international fur trade.

The area today is still used as a shipping point and this legislation seeks to also make the area a National Heritage Area. This status would allow the area to receive federal funds to help conserve and preserve the historical nature of the area and its surroundings.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

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